

BAMBERG COTTON MILL  
(Santee Cotton Mill)  
Main Street  
Bamberg  
Bamberg County  
South Carolina

HAER NO. SC-20

HAER  
SC,  
5-BAMB,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HAER, SC, 5-BAMB, 1-

STATE COUNTY TOWN OR VICINITY

South Carolina Bamberg Bamberg

HISTORIC NAME HAER NO.

Bamberg Cotton Mill SC-20

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES

Santee Cotton Mill

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL AREAS)

Main Street

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BUILDER, OR FABRICATOR

c1892 (appears on 1894 Sanborn Map)

SIGNIFICANCE (TECHNOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE)

This mill contained the largest collection of late 19th and early 20th century textile machinery in active production in the state until it closed in 1986. It was originally planned to house a carriage factory\*

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)

Masonry (brick) exterior load bearing walls with wood post and beam floor and ceiling

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)

Main three story section is L-shaped with a rectangular 2 story loom room and one story office/storage additions

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE

Row locked segmental arches over windows, most of which retain original sand elaborate corbeling @ cornice, pilasters, unusual square, tapering smokestack

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT)

At the time of the enclosed recording the machinery was being dismantled. An oral history interview was conducted by the SC SHPO staff with Ben Prokuski, a textile consultant from Goffstown, NH, who had over 50 years\*\*

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES

The major addition was the two-story loom room which was added adjacent to the main mill c1920. In 1898 the mill was enlarged to include a knitting mill for making hosiery. Warehouses for storing cotton were built in \*\*\*

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE

The condition of the building is fair, the machinery has been largely removed and present use is unknown.

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE

The mill was entirely financed by local capital and built out of local brick. The incorporators were Major E. R. Hayes, pres., W. G. Smith, treasurer & general manager, F. M. Bamberg, H. J. Brabham, C. R. Brabham, J. D. Copeland

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS, ETC.)

Sanborn Maps, Mr. Ben Prokuski

COMPILER, AFFILIATION

DATE

Tom Shaw - South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History

8/11/88

\* but was converted to textile production by 1894.

\*\* experience in the textile industry and who had worked on this machinery for 30 years. A copy of the tape has been provided.

\*\*\* c1900 across the street.

\*\*\*\* H. C. Folk, J. B. Black & J. H. Cope. W. G. Smith was the first superintendent and held office for many years. In 1894 the capacity was 6,720 spindles and 72 looms. In 1898 it had 10,752 spindles and 248 looms.

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